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Serial No. 10/677,759
60130-1900; 01MRA0330

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A door latch assembly comprising:
 - a release lever movable about a release lever axis;
 - a lock lever moveable about a lock lever axis, wherein the release lever and the lock lever are movable between a latched unlocked position, a latched locked position, and an unlatched position; and
 - a resilient assembly connected between the release lever and the lock lever, the resilient assembly ~~having~~ including:
 - a first retainer having a first seat, a first additional seat, a first load application feature, and a first projection and a first additional projection that projects from the first additional seat,
 - a second retainer having a second seat, a second additional seat, and a second load application feature, a second projection that projects from the second seat and a second additional projection that projects from the second additional seat, wherein the first seat and the second seat substantially face each other and at least one of the first projection and the first additional projection overlaps with at least one of the second projection and the second additional projection, and
 - a resilient member supported between the first seat and the second seat and positioned between the first load application feature and the second load application feature, wherein the resilient member is mounted between at least one of the first seat and the second seat and at least one of the first additional seat and the second additional seat, and wherein the at least one of the first seat and the second seat and the at least one the first additional seat and the second additional seat hold the resilient member in a preloaded position,
 - wherein the resilient member is mounted on the first projection and the first additional projection of the first retainer and the second projection and the second

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Serial No. 10/677,759
60130-1900; 01MRA0330

additional projection of the second retainer, and the first projection projects from the first seat only partially through the resilient member, and

wherein the resilient member is biased to resist a tensile force applied to both the first load application feature and the second load application feature, the tensile force tending to move the first seat and the second seat toward each other and to move the release lever relative to the lock lever when the lock lever and the release lever are in the unlatched position, ~~and wherein the first projection of the first retainer projects from the first seat only partially through the resilient member.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the resilient assembly acts in a non-resilient manner when the release lever and the lock lever move from the latched unlocked position to the latched locked position.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the resilient assembly acts in a non-resilient manner when the release lever and the lock lever move from the latched locked position to the latched unlocked position.

4-7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 7₁, wherein the first seat, the second seat, the first additional seat and the second additional seat are arranged to allow lost motion between the resilient member and one of the first retainer and the second retainer.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 7₁, wherein the first seat, the second seat, the first additional seat and the second additional seat are arranged to preload the resilient member.

10-11. (CANCELLED)

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Serial No. 10/677,759
60130-1900; 01MRA0330

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim ~~11~~1, wherein the at least one of the first projection and the first additional projection overlaps with the at least one of the second projection and the second additional projection when the release lever and the lock lever are in the unlatched position.

13-25. (CANCELLED)

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the first retainer surrounds the resilient member.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the second retainer surrounds the resilient member.

28. (CANCELLED)

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the first retainer and the second retainer are formed from a sheet of material.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 29, wherein the sheet of material is sheet metal.

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim ~~10~~1, wherein the first projection has a different length than the first additional projection.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the resilient member is one selected from the group consisting of a spring, a tube of resilient material and a block of resilient material.